



Thief in Retreat

Aimée Thurlo, David Thurlo

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A former investigative reporter, Sister Agatha has more than her fair share of spiritual challenges as an extern, a nun responsible for her cloistered order's dealings with the outside world. Still, she's instantly intrigued when the archbishop requests she discreetly investigate the odd disappearances of valuable religious folk art from The Retreat, a former New Mexico monastery-turned-upscale-inn. But soon Sister Agatha is entangled in one unearthly puzzle that includes an art expert who's vanished without a trace, a truly strange flock of out-there suspects, and an unnerving apparition no amount of rationality can explain. She'll have to bring all her worldly instincts and savvy to heading off a disastrous scandal--as well as a sheriff more interested in political glory than finding the truth. And between strange clues and plenty of unexpected motives, Sister Agatha will need plenty of spiritual intervention and heaven-sent cunning to bring one devilish murderer to book...

Thief in Retreat Details

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Heather says

This mystery series is perfect for me - a cozy mystery with a strong theme of faith through Sister Agatha. The characters seem like old friends in the midst of the imperfection of humanity. They are short and a casual, fun read and not for everyone, but I really enjoy them.

Pamela McLaren says

You do have to give credit where credit is due and Sister Agatha, the main character in this series, is a true original. Only thing -- I don't buy it. And I think there was a whole lot I had to turn a blind eye to about this mystery. Just not real enough -- I was never at the edge of my seat, never worried that the main characters would be killed or that the ending would end in any way other than it did. So while it was OK to read, I wouldn't say that I can't wait to read another in the series.

Cynthia says

Fun and entertaining with a deep spiritual underpinning that I really liked. I like Sister Agatha and her dog Pax, I like mysteries, and I love the Lord. This book had all of that. The secondary characters are not (at least to me) fully fleshed out - more representations of assorted traits/types than real people, which made it hard to keep track of who was who, but I enjoyed this and will read the next one in the series as well.

Homewood Public Library says

Archbishop Miera has enlisted the help of Sister Agatha and Pax, the white German Shepherd. When the Church sold the former Monastery of Saint John in the Pines to Mr. and Mrs. Luna it became an inn called The Retreat. The Archbishop assigned Sister Agatha to examine and catalog crates of artifacts left behind by the monks. He also sent her to help solve the theft of several art pieces at The Retreat and a ghostly appearance. When Sister Agatha and Pax arrived they caused quite a stir- a nun riding a red Harley with a German Shepherd riding in the side car. Everyone who met them there were automatically put at ease by this unique pair. Sister and Pax took up residence in the library where she worked with the artifacts belonging to the Church. Pax was on guard when she was out. Since she tended to be up late at night she had occasion to see Juanita, the ghost. Writers at a conference being held at The Retreat gave imaginative theories for the mysterious happenings. Rumors explained who Juanita had been and why she roamed The Retreat halls. But they did not explain the disappearance of sacred art or the substitution of fakes. While Sister was there the thefts continued, a manuscript disappeared and so did people and then a body was discovered. Now the local sheriff was called in on the case. And he did not like the interference of Sister Agatha at all. But she was on duty for the Church and continued her investigations along with her protector, Pax.

Jennifer says

Although I got an odd look from my Catholic mother when I told her I was reading a book about a nun who rides a motorcycle with a white German Shepherd in the sidecar and solves mysteries, my enthusiasm for the book made her curious enough to consider reading it. I picked up *Bad Faith* when I first started my mystery kick. I started out reading James Patterson's Women's Murder Club series, and it was a natural segue to mysteries, and this series seemed entertaining without being either too deep or too silly. Those who read it may be surprised by the culprit (admittedly, I was in the dark for a good part of the book), but it is enjoyable to read and I recommend it to those wanting to dabble in the mystery section.

Vera says

Please -- !!!! --- it is important to start with the first book in this series; first book is *BAD FAITH*. I loved *Thief in Retreat*....refreshing plot, loved the info on the art of the southwestern USA....I enjoy the relationship of communication between Sister Agatha, her dog Pax, Tom Green, and accompanying minor characters. Sister Agatha 'lives the walk' of kindness, and she loves God. Refreshing indeed.

Lisa Corathers says

I was disappointed in this Sister Agatha murder mystery. I did not enjoy near as much as some of the other books in the series, probably because I figured out right away who-dunit and I didn't care for the ghostly subplot. And I was so looking forward to reading it because I absolutely love Mexican art...sigh!

Spuddie says

#2 Sister Agatha mystery set in New Mexico. Sister Agatha is asked by the Archbishop to go out to a resort and retreat center to catalogue crates of stuff that were stored there (it was formerly a monastery) so that some renovations can occur. There is a secondary purpose to her trek also--the owners of the resort believe that certain religious art works have been stolen and replaced with fakes, but they have no real proof--and the appraiser they've hired has disappeared into thin air.

Sister Agatha, who is an extern at the monastery she's a member of--meaning she can interact with the public--has a bit of a rep with the Archbishop and he wants her to help solve that crime while doing her cataloguing. Of course there is a ghost story to go with it, and Sister Agatha herself sees Juanita, the so-called lilac-smelling ghost, one night. Does the ghost have anything to do with the missing (or replaced) art work, though--or is she just an interesting side story? Sheriff Tom Green is also there, attending a workshop for cops, and he is helping Sister keep an eye out--but of course doesn't prevent her from finding the dead body of the appraiser.

Part of me likes this quiet, cozy series, but part of me finds it a little too quiet, kind of repetitive in places, and somewhat unimaginative with a cliched set of characters. I've got one more book in the series here, and that one will be my decision-maker as to whether to continue reading the series or not. I'm teetering on the fence at the moment.

Mary Mahoney says

A fair number of people have a motive and the opportunity, but not all of them did it of course. Great fun narrowing it down. The dynamic between Sister Agatha and Tom Greene, the Sheriff, is outstanding.

Jean Dotson says

I liked the art perspective. fun and entertaining

Beaumont says

A fun second book in the series! I appreciate that the protagonist's religion is part of her character but that it doesn't reach the point where the book is more of a Christian inspiration story at all. It's a fun mystery!

Ray York says

Thief in Retreat

This is the second book in this series and I did enjoy it very much. I find it interesting looking at the workings of a Monistic order and the mystery side as I worked many years processing major crime scenes. Good read.

Dharia Scarab says

Since I don't normally write reviews unless I have something specific to say, here's the break down of how I rate my books...

1 star... This book was bad, so bad I may have given up and skipped to the end. I will avoid this author like the plague in the future.

2 stars... This book was not very good, and I won't be reading any more from the author.

3 stars... This book was ok, but I won't go out of my way to read more. But if I find another book by the author for under a dollar I'd pick it up.

4 stars... I really enjoyed this book and will definitely be on the look out to pick up more from the series/author.

5 stars... I loved this book! It has earned a permanent home in my collection and I'll be picking up the rest of the series and other books from the author ASAP.

Scott says

A friend said it best - who said Nancy Drew books were dead? Pity it's published by a reputable house and in the adult mystery section - and that it's actually from a series. Definitely pass on this one, even if you are just checking it out of the library.

Marjorie French says

I liked it very much. I plan to read more in this series. The library did not have #1, but you can get a good idea of the series starting here. An investigating Nun who rides a motorbike with her fierce dog protector in the side car!!!
